

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2729

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PROG, GR, CY, TU, US, OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J.)
SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ AND PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS ON
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REF: STATE 82476

1. AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL, THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS RELATING TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SOON AFTER THE CONGRESSMAN'S ARRIVAL HERE APRIL 2, DURING THE ENSUING CONVERSATION SOLARZ STATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE CONGRESS WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT, THOUGH THE MARGIN WAS LIKELY TO BE VERY NARROW. HE SAID THAT SUCCESS ON THIS COUNT COULD DEPEND ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO ASSURE CONGRESS THAT WE WOULD BE REGAINING USE OF OUR MILITARY FACILITIES IN TURKEY. OTHERWISE, THE CONGRESSMAN SAID, MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD FEEL THAT WE WERE LIFTING THE EMBARGO WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING IN RETURN AND, THEREFORE, BE RELUCTANT TO END THE EMBARGO EVEN THOUGH THEY BELIEVED THAT IT HAD FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVE OF A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02729 031544Z

2. BESIDES HIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR, CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ ATTENDED A DINNER OFFERED BY THE DCM, WHICH INCLUDED A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF GREEKS (OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND A JOURNALIST). AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, THE GREEK GUESTS WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE USG DECISION, REPORTED IN THE PRESS, TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, WHICH THEY ALLEGED WAS A MAJOR MORAL AND

POLITICAL ERROR. UNDER THE CONGRESSMAN'S INTENSIVE QUESTIONING IT BECAME CLEAR TO HIM THAT THEIR OPPOSITION WAS RELATED BOTH TO CYPRUS AND TO THEIR CONCERN THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE INCREASING ARMS DELIVERIES TO A TURKEY THAT IS, IN THEIR EYES, A THREAT TO GREECE'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

3. AT DINNER, DEPUTY MINISTER ATHANASSIOS TSALDARIS, THE OFFICIAL GOG SPOKESMAN AND ONE OF THE U.S.'S BEST FRIENDS IN GREECE, WAS VERY DISTURBED AT THE DECISION TO RAISE THE EMBARGO. DOMESTICALLY, HE AVERRED, IT WOULD IMMEASURABLY STRENGTHEN PAPANDROU AND ANTI-AMERICANISM WHILE INTERNATIONALLY IT WOULD INCREASE THE RISK OF WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. HE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, AS AVEROFF ALSO DID TO THE AMBASSADOR, THAT THE DAMAGE MIGHT BE LIMITED IF THE GOT WOULD COME ACROSS WITH CYPRUS PROPOSALS WHICH UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM COULD LABEL AS "POSITIVE", PROVIDING A BASIS FOR RESUMING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.
MCCLOSKEY

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